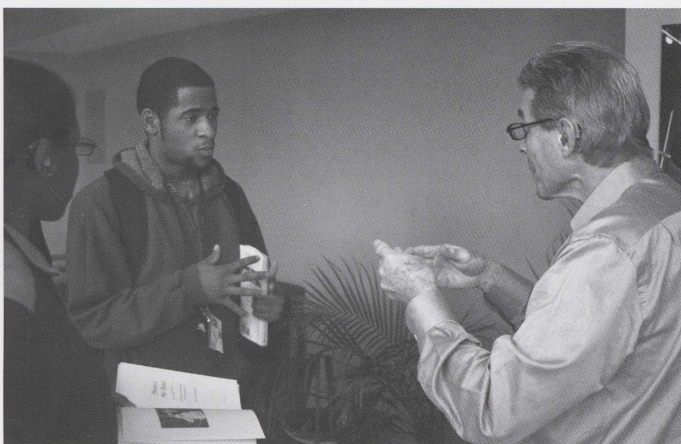


## Gallaudet Fact—

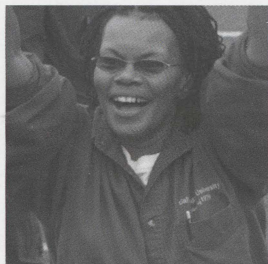
- Q. When was Gallaudet's Board of Associates established?
- A. 1864
  - B. 1964
  - C. 1988
  - D. 1991

Answer on page 4.

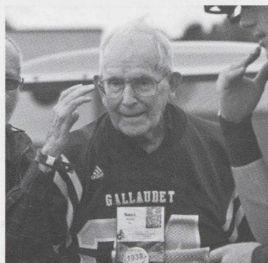


Students Kelvin Lunn and Shentara Cobb chat with Myron Uhlberg (right), author of *Hands of My Father: A Hearing Boy, His Deaf Parents, and the Language of Love*, following Uhlberg's October 22 presentation about his memoir. Uhlberg came to Gallaudet as a writer-in-residence during that month and, in addition to the public presentation, visited general studies classes for first-year students.

## IN THIS ISSUE



Zelephiene Jennings Meadows celebrates Homecoming 2009.

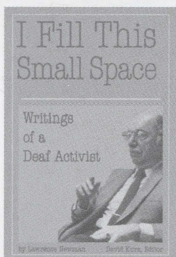


Race Drake, Sr., Class of 1938, calls the coin toss for this year's Homecoming football game.



### Roving Reporter

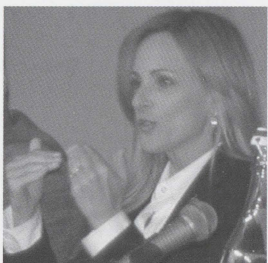
Running is one of Lisa Herbert's favorite hobbies.



*I Fill This Small Space*, one of five new Gallaudet Press offerings, is a collection of articles and columns penned by Lawrence Newman.



Josh Swiller talks about the inspiration he drew from audiences during a year of speaking engagements.

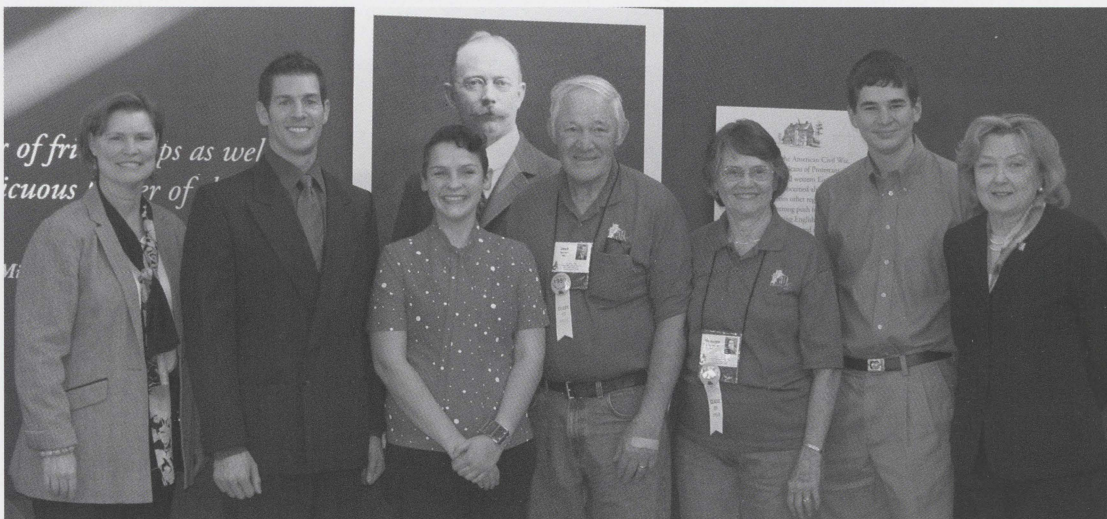


Marlee Matlin was one of the speakers at an FCC hearing about broadband access that was held on campus.

# ON THE GREEN

November 20, 2009 • VOL. 38. NO. 17

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
Gallaudet University • 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695



Members of the Gallaudet University Museum Committee are shown at the October 22 opening of the museum's first exhibition, "Olof Hanson, a Conspicuous Leader," in the JSAC's Weyerhaeuser Family Art Gallery and Exhibition Hall. Pictured (from left) are: Jean Bergey, outreach liaison and History Through Deaf Eyes director in the College of Professional Studies and Outreach; Scott Carollo, associate professor of art and exhibition designer; Tabitha Jacques, exhibition curator; Dr. Jack Gannon and Rosalyn Gannon, co-honorary chairs of the museum committee and members of the Class of 1959; Drew Robarge, exhibition consultant; and Dr. Jane Norman, professor of communication studies, director of the Gallaudet University Museum, and exhibition project director.

## Hanson exhibit opens with support of alumni, friends

A year-long exhibition about the deaf architect, advocate, and clergyman Olof Hanson opened on October 22 in the I. King Jordan Student Academic Center. The exhibition, entitled "Olof Hanson, Conspicuous Leader (1862-1933)," is located in the Weyerhaeuser Family Art Gallery and Exhibition Hall, on the lower level adjacent to the Marketplace.

"The purpose of this exhibit is to share the depth and richness of the history of deaf people and their influence in the world," said Dr. Jane Norman, director and curator of the planned Gallaudet University Museum, who served as

emcee for the opening program.

President Robert Davila and Provost Stephen Weiner welcomed an audience of about 100 students, staff, faculty, and visitors. "Great universities have great museums," said Dr. Weiner, holding up a notice on the importance of museums at institutions of higher learning that was placed by the Association of College & University Museums & Galleries in a recent issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Adapting the tagline to the occasion, he said, "This is your museum. It belongs to the people of Gallaudet."

Tabitha Jacques, the exhibition curator, said

*continued on page 2*



Deaf Studies Digital Journal launch attendees stand at a row of laptops to try the new online publication.

## 'Deaf Studies Digital Journal' launch marks milestone in scholarly studies

A milestone in the scholarly studies of academics and creative arts in the deaf community was reached November 4 with the debut of the *Deaf Studies Digital Journal* (DSDJ), the world's first peer reviewed, professional to be presented in a bilingual format that is equally accessible to users of American Sign Language and English.

The SLCC Atrium was charged with excitement as Mistress of Ceremonies Janis Cole led the audience in a spirited countdown culminating

with a click of a mouse by DSDJ managing editor Melissa Malzkuhn, and Issue One, Fall 2009 was unveiled before the cheering crowd who had gathered to share in this unprecedented accomplishment.

"I want you to remember this date," Provost Stephen Weiner exclaimed, adding that the DSDJ, which will be published biannually, is a priority for Gallaudet because it supports its mission as a bilingual university. "This is actually history in the making."

*continued on page 6*



## The 75th anniversary of Homecoming marks many milestones

The 75th anniversary of Homecoming (Gallaudet's first was held in 1934) was a banner weekend with many festive events to mark the significance of the occasion. Spirits were high October 23 to 25, with alumni and students celebrating, whether it was participating in a class reunion, creating floats to be showcased after the class parade, or attending ceremonies honoring the contributions of alumni. The strong spirit was evident everywhere in the smiles, gestures, and moods of an estimated 2,500 alumni and guests from near and far. Here are a few glimpses of the historic celebration.



### Clockwise from left:

Zekephene Jennings Meadows, the 30th anniversary reunion chair for the Class of 1979, cheers during the annual class parade.

Race Drake, Sr., a member of the Class of 1938, calls "heads" in the coin toss at the 2009 Homecoming football game. Drake was a member of the football team in 1934, the year of the first Homecoming, and came back to campus to celebrate the 75th anniversary of that Gallaudet tradition.

Gallaudet leaders celebrate the renaming of the Gerald "Bummy" Burstein Leadership Institute (BLI) with Gerald and Stephen Burstein. Pictured (from left) are Dr. Joseph Innes, dean of the College of Professional Studies and Outreach; Provost Stephen Weiner; Dr. Stephen Burstein; Dr. Gerald "Bummy" Burstein; and President Davila. The renaming was paired with a special ceremony honoring Dr. Davila's service to the University.

Students rush to put the final touches on their floats in the Sorenson Language and Communication Center Atrium before the Homecoming parade.



### See more of Homecoming online!

- A brief clip of the entire Homecoming weekend: [video.gallaudet.edu/homecoming2009.xml](http://video.gallaudet.edu/homecoming2009.xml).
- A conversation with Race Drake, Jr., a member of the 1934 football team: [video.gallaudet.edu/racedrake.xml](http://video.gallaudet.edu/racedrake.xml).
- A video from the annual "Friday with Professor" presentation: [video.gallaudet.edu/friday.xml](http://video.gallaudet.edu/friday.xml).
- A video from the program honoring President Robert Davila and the renaming of the Gerald "Bummy" Burstein Leadership Institute: [video.gallaudet.edu/bli.xml](http://video.gallaudet.edu/bli.xml).
- Footage of the College Bowl Challenge IV competition: [video.gallaudet.edu/collegebowl.xml](http://video.gallaudet.edu/collegebowl.xml).
- A full account of the weekend's events: [alumni2.gallaudet.edu/?ID=16038](http://alumni2.gallaudet.edu/?ID=16038)

## Among Ourselves

**Dr. Donna Mertens**, a professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research, was one of five professionals to be presented the American Evaluation Association's (AEA) Paul F. Lazarsfeld Evaluation Theory Award at a ceremony during the "Evaluation 2009" conference, held November 11 to 14 in Orlando, Fla. According to an AEA press release, the annual awards recognize individuals for "enhancing evaluation efforts ... raising public awareness within the field and in the global community, as well as providing the needs tools and approaches to evaluation." Mertens served as AEA president in 1998 and helped found the association's Diversity Initiative.

**Dr. Barry Bergen**, chair of the Department of Government and History, served as chair of a panel, "A Transnational Age: Youth, Culture, and Revolution in the Postwar Era," at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Western Society for French History in Boulder, Colo., October 22 to 25.

**Jorge Santiago-Blay** is the co-author of a report "A Probable Pollination Mode Before Angiosperms: Eurasian, Long-Proboscis Scorpionflies" that appears in the November issue of the journal *Science*. To read the report, go to [www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/326/5954/840](http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/326/5954/840).

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley recently appointed **Dr. Angela McCaskill**, research director of the Science of Learning Center on Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2), and **Dr. Khadijat Rashid**, chair of the Business Department, to the Maryland School for the Deaf's Board of Trustees for a six-year term.

### Hanson exhibit

*continued from page 1*

that the exhibition "explores the context of what life was like for some deaf people during Hanson's time."

William Terrell, representing the Class of 1958, and Rosalyn and Jack Gannon, members of the Class of 1959, spoke about their individual and class efforts to raise money for the Gallaudet University Museum project. Last year, during its 50th anniversary reunion, the Class of 1958 was inspired to bring in over \$3,000 for the museum. The Class of 1959 collected over \$20,000 in donations and pledges. Gerald "Bummy" Burstein, a 1950 graduate of the University, also contributed significantly to the project.

The Olof Hanson exhibit was made possible through the generosity of the Class of 1958 and individual donors to the Gallaudet University Museum. "Without their support, the exhibition would not be possible," said Norman.

Scott Carollo, an associate professor in the Department of Art, designed the exhibition, and Drew Robarge served as exhibition consultant. Plans are underway to develop a traveling exhibition. ■

*This article is a composite of reports by students in "English 385: Fundamentals of Journalism," taught by Robert Weinstock: Alexander Abenchuchan, Renca Dunn, Jillian Gruetzner, Sigridur Jonsson, Jonah Meehan, Sean Stone, Kirsten Swanson, and Earl Terry.*

## ON THE GREEN

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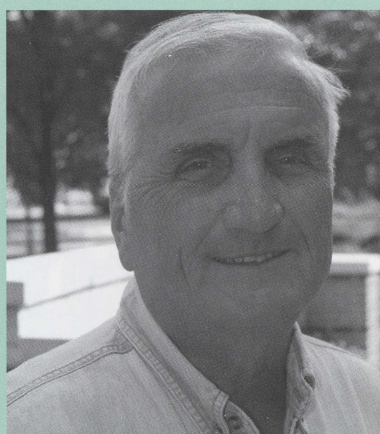
## Roving Reporter

What is your favorite hobby?



*I enjoy supporting deaf schools in Colombia by raising funds through Spanish classes at Gallaudet and giving presentations at the schools.*

Maria Perdomo, student



*Golf is number one. I have been involved in this sport since I was a student at Gallaudet. I have led, taught, and worked with local, national, and international golf organizations for about 40 years now.*

Bernard "Bernie" Brown, retired professor



*Taking trips in my 1966 VW bus.*

Amanda Pernisi, interpreter, Gallaudet Interpreting Service



*Running is one of my favorite hobbies. I love to look at the scenery and people-watch while I am doing it. The colder weather means treadmill season for me. I will use the time to think while getting in shape!*

Lisa Herbert  
School psychologist, MSSD

## GUPress publishes new books on deaf drama, history, and education

By Dan Wallace

"Oh, why can't the deaf community be more like a family?" is the plaint of a character in Raymond Luczak's title play, *Whispers of a Savage Sort*. It also aptly characterizes the main thread that runs through the compelling work offered in the new collection, *Whispers of a Savage Sort and Other Plays about the Deaf American Experience* recently published by GUPress.

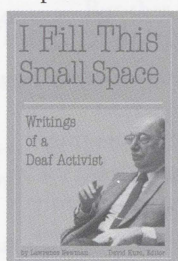
Luczak, a renowned writer and filmmaker in Minneapolis, Minn., presents a progression of plays that depict deaf people in situations well known by members of the community. Written to be signing-driven, each play features deaf characters from various strata of deaf society and centers on different yet equally familiar issues. The emotions, identities, and consequences created by Luczak in these dramas illuminate the American deaf community in fascinating detail rarely seen in any medium today.

*Handy Stories to Read and Sign* takes a bilingual, fun approach to help beginning readers, deaf and hearing, improve their comprehension of both English and American Sign Language (ASL). Charmingly illustrated, the five stories presented here increase in complexity as the children's vocabulary and reading skills increase during the school year. Introductions to each story explain to parents and teachers the elements emphasized, such as providing helpful information on how the formation of certain signs creates ASL rhymes.

GUPress also recently released the *Handy Stories to Read and Sign Companion DVD*, featuring Adrian Blue, a native ASL signer and accomplished actor, signing each story exactly as depicted in the

book. Student Janiah Mitchell signs all of the stories again, showing that they can be signed differently, depending upon the individual. The 30 minute DVD also displays the full text of each story.

Since Margret Winzer wrote her landmark work, *The History of Special Education*, much has transpired in this field. She recaptures these developments in a remarkable display of scholarship in her new study, *From Integration to Inclusion: A History of Special Education in the 20th Century*, which focuses chiefly on the significant events of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries in the United States and Canada. The key dynamics consist of a retrospective overview of the paradigms that emerged from and shaped special education; a critical assessment of past progress and reform, including failures and disappointments; and an analysis of the theoretical diversity within the discipline.



Lawrence Newman became deaf in 1930 at the age of five and saw his father fight back tears knowing that his son would never hear again. The next time he saw his father cry was in 1978, when Newman received

an honorary doctorate from Gallaudet, his alma mater. Newman was recognized for his achievements as a lifelong advocate for deaf education, including receiving California's Teacher of the Year award in 1968. Perhaps his greatest influence, however, stemmed from his many articles and columns that appeared in various publications, the best of which are featured in *I Fill This Small Space: The Writings of a Deaf Activist*. Editor David Kurs has organized Newman's writings around his passions—deaf education, communication and language, miscella-

neous columns and poems on deaf life, and humorous insights on his activism. Newman's ability has a wide range, but he always maintains his focus on equal rights for deaf people, as he demonstrates in his title poem "I Fill This Small Space":

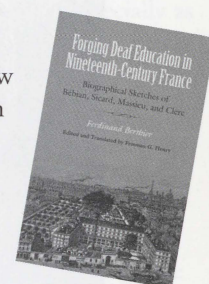
*I fill this small space, this time  
Who is to say yours is better  
Than mine or mine yours*

The final new book from GUPress presents the first translation of four biographical sketches by 19th-century deaf French activist Ferdinand Berthier. *Forging Deaf Education in Nineteenth-Century France: Biographical Sketches of*

*Bébian, Sicard, Massieu, and Clerc* describes how these men influenced Berthier in shaping his unswerving beliefs about deaf French education, now made available by Freeman G. Henry to a brand new audience.

These books and others are available at the Bison Shop or online from GUPress at [gupress.gallaudet.edu](http://gupress.gallaudet.edu). ■

(Note: Dan Wallace is assistant director of GUPress.)



## Priority Research Fund recipients announced

Priority Research Funds are awarded annually to faculty, teachers, and staff at the University and the Clerc Center for high-caliber studies on Gallaudet's research priorities.

The Gallaudet Research Institute (GRI) is pleased to announce that the following scholars have been awarded grants to support their research during 2009 and 2010:

### New grants

- "Exploring Blended Instructional Pedagogy to Enhance Student Learning and Scientific Reasoning Skills in Biology," Qi Wang, Business; Caroline Solomon, Biology
- "Adapting the use of the World Health Organization's cross-cultural instruments to identify the mental health needs of deaf and hard of hearing adults in Nepal," Teresa Mason, Social Work

### Continuing grants

- "Developing a theoretical framework for sign language assessment tests," Raylene Paludnevicene, Psychology;

Paul Dudis, Linguistics; Peter Hauser, RIT

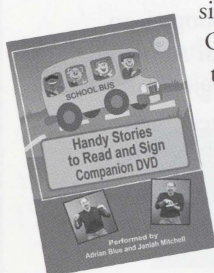
- "Effects of Bilingualism on Word Order and Information packaging in ASL," Deborah Chen-Pichler, Linguistics
- "Perception of Phonological Structure in ASL," Gaurav Mathur, Linguistics
- "Parsing sentences in two languages," Pilar Piñar, Linguistics

To see the abstracts of these studies, go to [research.gallaudet.edu/Priority](http://research.gallaudet.edu/Priority)

**The next deadline for submitting proposals to the Priority Research Fund is February 15. Please submit an Expression of Interest by December 15.**

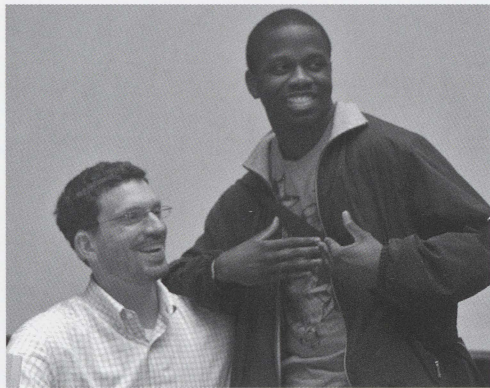
For a newly simplified application and tips in writing a proposal, go to [research.gallaudet.edu/Funding/applications.html](http://research.gallaudet.edu/Funding/applications.html) ■

For more information, contact Dr. Charles Reilly at [charles.reilly@gallaudet.edu](mailto:charles.reilly@gallaudet.edu) or x5794, Senda Benaissa at [senda.benaissa@gallaudet.edu](mailto:senda.benaissa@gallaudet.edu), or stop by GRI, HMB South, fourth floor.





## Visiting professor Josh Swiller gives insights on 'life on the road'



Josh Swiller (left), a visiting professor in the Honors Program, poses with a student during a book signing at Adelphi University on October 29.

By Josh Swiller

Over the last year, speaking engagements have taken me all across the country—18 states in all. In each place I meet people eager to learn about worlds they know little of: our deaf one and Africa, where I lived for three years.

In my presentations, I talk of forgetting how blessed I've been, then remembering it again. I talk of my experiences with hearing loss and hearing aids and implants and sign and how each has taught me different ways to connect with others; how each bears challenges and gifts. I tell the audiences about the millions of deaf people in the developing world who don't have such resources or opportunities.

And people, I find, want to help. Thousands of dollars have been raised for two non-profits I work with that help deaf people overseas. And in this cynical, uncertain era, I gain so much from such open, reflexive kindness.

So it is good to travel, to see the good in people.

Sometimes I was asked about the divide between signing and oral deaf people.

"Why do they hate us?" the question comes. Or: "Why don't they try and understand us?" Or: "How can we bridge the distance?"

The best answer came from Colin Analco, a freshman in Gallaudet's Honors Program. We were at the yearly honors retreat, on a peninsula in the Chesapeake Bay.

"We all just want to feel valued and be happy," he said. "We all just want to connect. Aren't we at heart the same?"

Those are moments when a room feels charged with hope. Happiness and honest work—that's all we want. Why did it get so complicated?

Sometimes, there's an opposite feeling. In Massachusetts, a recently deafened woman raged against the signing community. But after a few minutes her anger petered out and it became less clear that the issue was the signing community and not her own loneliness and fear. "I need time," she said then. "This is new to me."

What is clear is that large swathes of the country know nothing about deafness. What is clear is that the country needs Gallaudet. That there will always be a need for a place where hearing is irrelevant to connection, to learning, to feeling complete.

In New York, my last trip of the year, I judged a university essay contest. It didn't start off well: I was tired and the professor who picked me up at the airport handled his steering wheel like it had fallen into his lap from deep space. We swerved back and forth across the Long Island Turnpike and I had a headache when we arrived. I didn't want to talk essays.

But the compassion and energy of the students were inspiring. They had written about their private struggles – being adopted, moving to a new country, having a learning disability—and what they'd learned from them. The winner finished her essay with: "My wheelchair is not my defining characteristic...and I have much to offer the world."

No complaints, no excuses. Instead, the promise to work hard, and in that promise, renewed hope for this troubled world.

As I headed back to the airport, a frost hung in the air. The sky had that fall crispness. I was still tired but I was going home, back to Gallaudet, where I'd walk my dog behind the football field and work on my novel over coffee next to Seth Gore, a tremendously talented senior working on his own book.

That's another great thing about traveling: after seeing the world, you get to come home. ■

*Josh Swiller is a visiting professor in the Honors Program and works on special projects for Gallaudet. His recent presentations included a kick-off to Northeastern University's Deaf Awareness Week activities in Boston, Mass., on September 28 and an October 29 presentation at Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y. At Adelphi, each of the school's more than 1,000 first-year students had read his book, The Unheard: A Memoir of Deafness and Africa, and completed an essay assignment based on its themes.*

## Global Reach Out delegates advocate for deaf rights in developing countries

Several Gallaudet students, faculty, and staff have become involved with Global Reach Out (GRO) Initiatives, Inc., a non-profit organization with the aim of helping build a global community in which all deaf individuals understand the meaning and necessity of deaf rights.

Its most recent program was an inaugural trip by eight deaf American delegates to Kenya last August. GRO delegates teamed with deaf Kenyan delegates for three weeks, engaging in an intensive cultural exchange and creating and developing a camp curriculum for deaf Kenyan high school students that became the Kenyan Youth Leadership Camp (KYLC). On this trip, Gallaudet was represented by sophomore Monica Keller, Norma Morán, a data analyst for the Office of Academic Quality, and Alim Chandani, a doctoral student and First Year Experience graduate assistant.

GRO strives to create a sustainable community of deaf advocates through the establishment of peer-to-peer, cross-cultural programs in developing countries. GRO delegates have also traveled to Thailand, India, Guatemala, and Honduras. They spend time in these developing countries with their foreign peers to understand the common issues that the deaf community faces there. Based on this information, delegates work with those peers to advocate for them in ways that are stepping stones toward deaf rights and equality.

"GRO gave me the opportunity to open my eyes about the deaf community in developing countries," said Lindsay Buchko, an instructor in the General Studies Department and a 2009 delegate to Honduras. "It also provided me the opportunity to step out of my 'American' shoes and better understand the kinds of issues that still exist in our world within the deaf community." Buchko said that based on her experience in Honduras, she "has built a passion to continue educating and advocating deaf individuals from all parts of the world."

Another delegate to Honduras, Bregitt Jimenez, a senior majoring in communication studies, said that her work has instilled a sense of self pride for having made a positive impact on several deaf Hondurans' lives. What's more, the experience "changed the course of my life and made me a much stronger person," she said. "To this day, my GRO-Honduras experience stands as one of the most important parts of my life. ... I enthusiastically recommend it to anyone who wants to take on the challenge."

Keller, a sophomore majoring in international education and a delegate to Kenya, interacted with Kenya's delegates on a peer-to-peer level to create the week-long KYLC curriculum. "This memory is something that I would not trade for anything," she said.

To learn more about GRO, visit its website at [www.globalreachout.org](http://www.globalreachout.org). ■



A member of Global Reach Out's Kenyan staff surprises the GRO staff from the U.S. with a handmade poster created with the help of the 16 delegates who took part in a cultural exchange program in August. The poster recognizes GRO's first trip to Kenya.

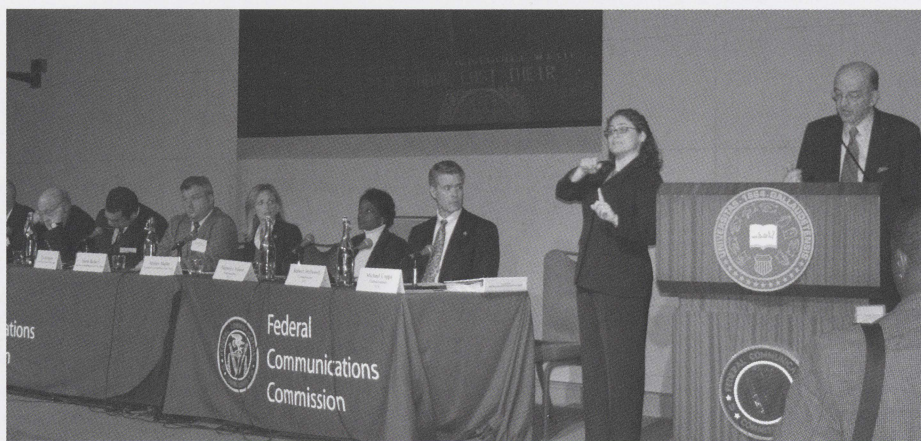


Dr. Robert Harrison (left), chair of the Department of Communication Studies, and Dr. Judith Harkins (right), director of the Technology Access Program (TAP) and professor of communication studies, congratulate their colleagues, Dr. Jane Norman, professor of communication studies, for 30 years of service to Gallaudet, and Norman Williams, senior research engineer for TAP and a member of the Communication Studies Department, for 15 years of service.

### Gallaudet Fact—

Answer: D. Gallaudet established its Board of Associates in 1991. The business and philanthropic leaders who make up the board's membership help to develop a network of employers and benefactors who, through their support, ensure the future success of Gallaudet and of individual students. In addition to making business introductions, board members also lecture in classes and act as advocates to promote the University.





Federal Communications Commissioner Michael Copps (right) kicks off a November 6 hearing at Gallaudet on accessible broadband.

## FCC field hearing on broadband access held at Gallaudet

Federal Communications Commissioner (FCC) Michael Copps opened a November 6 field hearing at Gallaudet on the topic of broadband access for people with disabilities by saying that he was impressed with the accommodations at the Kellogg Conference Hotel.

Award-winning actress, author, and Gallaudet Trustee Marlee Matlin testifies at the FCC field hearing.



Referring to Gallaudet's wide range of accessibility: real-time captions, an ASL interpreter on the stage, and deaf interpreters sitting with attendees who were deaf-blind, Copps said, "In this truly state-of-the-art auditorium, I think we have what we need to conduct a sound and inclusive hearing." As broadband Internet becomes more widespread, Copps said, such means will be vital to make sure that no one misses out. "Every American has to have access to this technology and all the many services it spins out," he continued.

The hearing, which attracted more than 200 people, was part of an FCC effort to bring people with disabilities on board as the FCC prepares the broadband accessibility plan due to Congress in February 2010.

Six leaders in the deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, blind, and autistic communities were at the hearing to share their thoughts on how to best grant that access, as well as a number of experts who testified on solutions and recommendations. "It is really essential that we have your input," said Copps.

Mignon Clyburn, another FCC commissioner, then expressed her excitement at sharing the stage with award-winning actress, author, and Gallaudet trustee Marlee Matlin, who represented the National Association of the Deaf. She

noted that the FCC's decisions would benefit greatly from input at the hearing, which will be included in their February report. "We don't want to have anything to do with this thing called retrofitting," Clyburn said.

Matlin's remarks included some biography, some humor, and lots of irony. After she became the first deaf actress to win an Academy Award, in 1986, she grew into an activist and lobbyist for the cause of captioning. Her efforts contributed to the success of the Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990, which required all TVs over 13 inches to decode closed captioning. She also successfully pushed for the captioning of a film version of *The Wizard of Oz* movie that inspired her as a budding actor to pursue the role of Dorothy on stage.

Almost 20 years after that legislation passed, Matlin feels she is fighting the same fight all over again. She was unable to watch the 70th anniversary edition of *The Wizard of Oz* streamed via Netflix on her laptop with her 5-year-old daughter. She can't get full access to online video of her own appearance on the television show "Dancing with the Stars." Even the unveiling of the Helen Keller statue at the Capitol, she said, lacked access to deaf and hard of hearing audiences if they tuned in online.

All television shows are captioned, and the technology exists to add those captions to the web streamed versions. "I was told technology was coming and that I had to be patient and wait," she said. But that wasn't in her nature. Instead, she "made noise," said Matlin. "It is simply a matter of making sure access reflects the changing landscape." Without this progressive action, she pointed out, 36 million Americans will be "shut out" from broadband.

Matlin lobbied on Capitol Hill the previous day with other members of the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology. Her efforts in Washington aren't over, she said: "Although I may be deaf, silence is the last thing anyone will hear from me." ■

To view a video of the event, go to [www.fcc.gov/live/2009\\_11\\_06-workshop.html](http://www.fcc.gov/live/2009_11_06-workshop.html)

## President Davila updates campus on strategic plan

(The following is a progress report from Dr. Davila on Gallaudet's strategic plan that was sent to the campus community on November 9.)

I am writing to you today to provide another update on our progress with the Long Range Strategic Plan (LRSP). As you know from the regular emails and letters you receive from Board of Trustees Chair Benjamin Soukup, the board is committed to implementing the LRSP, and this requires the president to make regular reports on our activity. During this period of presidential transition, I am working very closely with the Board of Trustees and with President-Designate Alan Hurwitz to ensure that these implementation plans proceed seamlessly.

Before I continue, I would like to express my amazement with this community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni. During the past three years, you have responded to adversity with great resiliency and commitment. Working together, this community addressed the Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation issues and numerous other challenges. I stand in awe of what you accomplished. We must continue this level of commitment as we move forward with the LRSP.

I know many of you on campus have asked why the LRSP is so important and why the Board of Trustees and I believe it is so urgent for Gallaudet. Please let me share my thoughts on the reasons for developing a long range strategic plan and quickly implementing it.

- The world is changing rapidly, and this includes higher education. Not all colleges and universities will survive these transformational changes in how higher education is delivered in the coming years. Colleges that adapt and anticipate these changes will emerge stronger.
- Our student population is changing. The number of deaf and hard of hearing students continues to shrink. Mainstreamed students now make up 85 percent of our potential applicant pool, and increasingly these students are choosing mainstream colleges for their higher education.
- The world of work is evolving faster than ever before. Career choices for our students are changing rapidly and our curriculum must keep pace for us to be competitive in the marketplace.

- Our funding will not continue at the same levels from the same sources. For the first time in many years, we face an operating budget deficit at Gallaudet unless we make changes.

- Our support is increasingly tied to performance. The government provides 70 percent of our operating budget and, on behalf of the American taxpayers, it is demanding accountability and results, especially related to enrollment, academic quality, and controlling the costs of higher education. Our supporters have been generous and understanding of the changes that Gallaudet has faced the past few years, but there is an expectation that we will significantly increase our enrollment, reduce our costs per graduate, and adapt to a changing population and world of work.

To meet these realities head-on, the LRSP focuses on guiding principles and concrete goals.

To thrive in this challenging environment, we must take proactive steps. Sometimes, this will require tough strategic decisions about adding and deleting some of our curricula offerings, increasing student academic support, and expanding student services—especially as they relate to the support students need to graduate and the career development that will help them succeed beyond Gallaudet. In all of our actions, we must remain accountable to our funders and stakeholders.

I am confident that this community will once again work together under the leadership of our Board of Trustees and Dr. Hurwitz to make these changes and ensure that Gallaudet University survives and thrives to serve future generations of deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing students. Provost Stephen Weiner, Vice President of Administration and Finance Paul Kelly, and Executive Director of Strategic Planning Richard Lytle have begun visiting departments and key groups to talk about the LRSP and the case for rapid, strategic change. We will all be available for these important meetings in the coming weeks and months.

The trustees, Dr. Hurwitz, and I all recognize the need for change and are very committed to guiding Gallaudet to a bright and bold future through the LRSP. We are also committed to informing the community as we move forward. Please look for weekly updates on the LRSP. ■



James Payne, an executive from Telcordia Technologies, Inc. of Alexandria, Va., addresses his fellow Board of Associates (BOA) members during a November 5 meeting at Gallaudet. During that gathering, Payne was welcomed as the next chair of the BOA, the University's key business and philanthropy networking body. President Davila thanked outgoing chair John Yeh for his 18 years of service, and several board members made classroom presentations.

## Campus Calendar

For the most up-to-date listing of campus events, go to: [calendar.gallaudet.edu](http://calendar.gallaudet.edu).





Students in the international development master's program mingle with key supporters of human rights and international development at the Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) 15th year anniversary celebration, held in Washington, D.C. on October 20. Pictured (from left) are student Amii Limpp, Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-R.I.), and

students Nicar Bocalan and Dayak Dashuwar. The students witnessed an impressive lineup of speakers, featuring Executive Director of MDRI Eric Rosenthal, entrepreneur and investment banker Ted Kennedy, Jr., and Ecuadorian Ambassador Luis Gallegos. Congressman Kennedy, who received the MDRI's Human Rights Award, called for a united front against genocide, torture, and the abuse of people with disabilities.

## Clerc Center Happenings

### MSSD girls volleyball team wins league championship



Photo: Daniel Hines

The MSSD girls volleyball team, coaches, and Athletic Department staff proudly display the season trophy from the Maryland Independent School Athletic League.

By Susan M. Flanigan

**T**he MSSD girls volleyball team won the Maryland Independent School Athletic League (MISAL) title in an exciting 3-1 match on October 27 against two-time league champion Lanham Christian High School, ending the Eagles season with a 21-13 record.

Three star players were recognized for outstanding performances throughout the season: senior Martha Wolcott was named a First Team All League Player, and sophomore Anna Lynch and senior Carolina Kohn won recognition as Second Team All League Players.

MSSD played in the MISAL for the first time this year, which makes their 2009 league record of 11-1, including 3-0 in the playoffs, all the more remarkable. New head coach Jenny Cooper led the team to victory despite missing three weeks at the beginning of the season in

order to play on the U.S. women's volleyball team in the 2009 Deaflympics in Taiwan. (She helped her team win a silver medal.) Cooper credits her assistant coaches, Nanette Virnig and Tatsutoshi Kadota, for their leadership during her absence.

Team members Wolcott and Kohn praised the coaching staff. "Our summer volleyball camp at MSSD helped prepare us for the season. Over the three months of the season, we practiced at least two-and-a-half hours daily. The coaches took us to see volleyball games at Gallaudet to observe their techniques."

The coaches are also setting the MSSD players on a path to future opportunities in the sport. "We watched Jenny at the Deaflympics on the web and kept in touch through VP," said Wolcott. Both Wolcott and Kohn plan to continue their volleyball careers as Gallaudet students next fall. ■



The Maryland Independent School Athletic League recognized MSSD senior Martha Wolcott (left) as a first Team All League Player, and MSSD sophomore Anna Lynch (center) and senior Carolina Kohn as second Team All League Players for the 2009 season.

Photo: Daniel Hines

### Saudi Arabian, Gallaudet educators build bridges between cultures



Photo: Neal Lenderman

Visiting educators from Saudi Arabia gather for a photo with Department of Philosophy and Religion faculty members Dr. Jane Hurst (right), chair, and Teresa Blankmeyer Burke (second from right), instructor.

By Dr. Jane Hurst

**A** group of Saudi Arabian educators gathered with members of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at an October 19 meeting sponsored by CLAST and Dean Isaac Agboola. The Saudis were visiting the United States as part of an education exchange sponsored by the State Department, and wanted to come to Gallaudet to talk about teaching philosophy and religion in a secular environment.

In Saudi Arabia, the legal system depends on the Muslim Shari'a (religious law), and educational institutions must abide by this law. The Gallaudet group explained that the University is quite different, with students often expressing diverse opinions as part of a liberal arts education. They informed their guests that as a federally funded university, Gallaudet does not promote one religion above others, but rather is open to all views about religion—and atheism, in

the classroom.

The Saudis had many questions about accessible education, and were especially interested in Gallaudet faculty members' experiences as deaf people in mainstream environments. Working through two sets of interpreters, ASL and English-Arabic, discussions took place on the shared values of the two cultures, despite the apparent differences between them.

After a pause for afternoon prayers, Hamad alHamad, a Gallaudet sophomore and former English Language Institute student, joined the group and led a campus tour. After introductions, one of the guests informed alHamad that he knows his father in Saudi Arabia! "You look like your father," he said.

The seeds of friendship and future understanding were sown by this meeting, with hopes for many more such visits to build bridges between the cultures. ■

(Note: Dr. Jane Hurst is chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion.)

### 'Deaf Studies Digital Journal'

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A bank of laptop computers ringed the Atrium, inviting guests to log on to the website and read the introductory issue of *DSDJ*, which features articles, commentary, literature, visual arts, and film and video. The website, [dsdj.gallaudet.edu](http://dsdj.gallaudet.edu), was developed by Craig Interactive Learning Environments of Takoma Park, Md.

"Never before has the signing community had a multimedia collection of academic articles, commentary, literature, film, video, visual arts, historical footage of signed languages, and interviews, reviews, and news about community events," said Dr. H-Dirksen Bauman, who along with Dr. Benjamin Bahan, serves as the journal's executive editor.

Bahan and Bauman first brought up the idea for *DSDJ* to former provost Jane

Fernandes in 2005. Dr. Fernandes was intrigued with the idea and said she would support it. With the assistance of their colleague, Dr. MJ Bienvenu, the faculty members wrote a proposal, which was approved, and the process began. Over the years, more than 150 individuals have played a role in developing the concept and making it a reality.

*DSDJ* is housed in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies and sponsored by the University and the Sorenson Legacy Foundation. The editors' goal is for the journal to be part of a linguistic and cultural paradigm shift. "Our hope is to promote the development of American Sign Language and other signed languages as academic languages," said Bahan. "This journal promises to be a forum to foreground the intellectual and creative output from the signing community." ■